

# Dining workers secure new union contract

Dana Gerber, *Beacon Staff*

The college’s dining workers renegotiated their union contract with Bon Appétit Management Company in May 2019 to provide them with more benefits after their previous contract expired last April.

The renegotiation comes after similar contracts were renegotiated at Harvard University, Northeastern University, and other Boston-area colleges associated with Unite Here Local 26, a union representing hospitality workers around Boston. The Boston Marriott workers who went on strike last year were also represented by Local 26.

The new contract, which expires in 2024, increases workers’ pay, institutes a pension plan, offers more vacation time, and provides access to more affordable health care. The new contract increases the lowest hourly wage for the dining workers from \$14.35 to \$21.30 over the course of the 5-year contract, according to Michael Kramer, organizing director for Local 26.

“The contract at Emerson really needs to be looked at in the context of the rest of the university food service industry in Boston over the last couple of years,” Kramer said in a phone interview. “There’s been a real movement of university dining hall workers—who are members of Local 26—demanding that conditions in that industry be significantly different.”

Kramer said that one of the central demands of all university dining workers is to be able to earn \$35,000 a year, which is the median Boston income. In order to reach this goal, Kramer said that the new contract calls for an increase of the minimum wage every six months and allows more employees to work full-time.

“These are the people who are making students feel at home at some very wealthy institutions and the city and are struggling to survive in a city that is growing more and more expensive all the time,” he said. “Somebody who’s working at a university with a big endowment and a lot of money should be at least earning the median for a working person in this city.”

Kramer said that before the contract was

renegotiated, the workers filled out a survey expressing what benefits they hoped to obtain, followed by the formation of a bargaining committee.

Daniel Suazo, the chief union representative of the dining workers, said that Bon Appétit initially fought against the demands of the workers and only agreed to meet their demands after the workers banded together to assert their union membership.

“In the beginning, they said no. Everything that we proposed, they said, ‘We’re rejecting, rejecting.’ After that, I requested the button,” Suazo said, referring to his Local 26 pin. “And I told everyone, ‘We need the button, we need to show the boss that we are ready to fight [together].’”

Dawn Sajdyk, resident district manager of Bon Appétit, was not immediately available for comment.

Assistant Vice President of Facilities and Campus Services Duncan Pollock said that the college is happy with the outcome of the negotiations.

“We value those employees, and they’re a very important part of what we do here at the college in serving the students and the rest of the community,” he said in a phone interview.

Pollock clarified that, although Emerson contracts Bon Appétit as a food vendor, all of the union negotiations are done completely through Bon Appétit.

“It’s hands-off as far as we’re concerned,” he said. “But we definitely support them being in the union and the union negotiating in good faith with Bon Appétit, and Bon Appétit in good faith with the union.”

He said he believes that both Bon Appétit and the dining workers left the table happy with the compromises.

“From my understanding, the negotiations went very well,” he said. “It seems like all the parties are doing the right thing for the college.”

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## Former professional joins women’s soccer staff



Cappuzzo (left) played in the UEFA Champions League with MTK Hungarian FC prior to joining Emerson women’s soccer’s staff. Montse Landeros / *Beacon Correspondent*

Ethan McDowell, *Beacon Correspondent*

The final whistle blew to signal the end of Northeastern University’s 2017 soccer season, and with it the end of an era for Kayla Cappuzzo.

Now, Cappuzzo works as the assistant coach of the Emerson women’s soccer team. During her college career Cappuzzo received first-team all-conference honors twice in the Colonial Athletics Association and set the school’s single-season record for assists. After completing that chapter of her career, she had to decide what her future entailed.

After weighing her options, Cappuzzo said it became very clear that she would not be walking away from soccer any time soon.

“My lifelong journey was definitely to play

professionally, and I had that goal since I was a little kid and all throughout college,” Cappuzzo said in an interview. “I knew my last game at Northeastern wasn’t going to be my last game of soccer ever.”

Cappuzzo joined MTK Hungarian FC, a soccer team in the Union of European Football Association Champions League, while overcoming a language barrier between her and the rest of the team. Following her lone season at the club, Cappuzzo returned home to use what she learned overseas to start a coaching career at Emerson.

“When I was in Budapest, my coach actually didn’t speak any English,” Cappuzzo said. “Something I value more than ever right now is communication and communicating with the girls on and off the field. Not just about soccer but class as well, and just to make sure that

they’re excelling and exceeding in all aspects of life.”

In order to pursue her professional aspirations, Cappuzzo hired an agent after graduating from Northeastern who helped her in negotiations with teams overseas.

When she arrived in Budapest, Hungary, Cappuzzo realized she had achieved the dream she had been pursuing since childhood.

“Stepping onto a big stadium field, wearing a professional jersey—it was just one of those moments where I was like, ‘Damn, all my hard work paid off,’” Cappuzzo said.

Although succeeding as a coach is not the same as succeeding as a player, Cappuzzo said it has been a fairly simple transition thanks to other members of the coaching staff.

See Cappuzzo, page 8

## Junior plans orientation event for first generation students

Rachelle Ma, *Beacon Correspondent*

For most new students, the colorful sight of banners and orientation leaders in blue shirts and glitter makeup is a warm welcome to the new campus. But for first-generation college students like junior Anthony Rodriguez, orientation week can feel more lonely.

Rodriguez identifies as a first-generation and low-income student. He said he often hears phrases such as “I’ll just put it on my mom’s credit card” or “it’s not that expensive” being thrown around on campus by his peers. That, and his desire to create an inclusive space for students like himself, led him to organize Emerson’s first student orientation event for first-generation college students.

Students, orientation leaders, and Emerson staff attended a lunch held in the Cabaret on Aug. 30 hosted by First Gen E-M, an Emerson-affiliated organization which Rodriguez and his co-president, senior Cassie Poirier, founded during Rodriguez’s sophomore year.

Rodriguez’s work involving First Gen E-M led to his recruitment as a core staff member for Orientation Week, which then sparked the idea to organise a lunch among first-generation students as well as inclusion training for orientation leaders.

Rodriguez and Poirier followed the lunch by inviting students and alumni of Emerson College to speak on a panel and discuss their experiences of being first-generation students.

Rodriguez said that being first-generation and low-income is often something that gets overlooked on campus and that few students beside Poirier and himself have been vocal about it.

“It definitely differs from student to student, but it can be alienating to identify as a first-generation, low-income student and have it go unrecognized,” Rodriguez said. “What we’re doing is changing that stigma.”

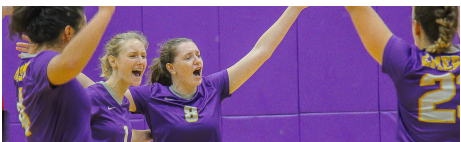
Christopher Grant, associate director of the Office of Student Success, sees events like the First Gen lunch as the college’s way of recognizing its diverse student body.

See first-generation, page 6

### INSIDE THIS EDITION



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# News

## Community members commemorate 9/11 terrorist attacks

Tomas Gonzalez and Rice Foster, *Beacon Staff*

When he was two years old, sophomore Vaughn Coleman lost his father and uncle in the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001—an event he remembers every year.

“We’ll never forget because I think about my dad and uncle every single day,” he said in an interview. “My dad was a normal person going to work, then things changed.”

Coleman, along with approximately 100 people, gathered on Wednesday night in Boston Common for the nineteenth annual Emerson College 9/11 Candlelight Vigil, mourning the lives lost in the attacks.

After speaking to the crowd, Coleman then played “Where The Streets Have No Name” by U2 as everyone placed their candles in the center of the bandstand. The song, Coleman said, was significant to his father, who played it during his birth.

As candles flickered around a bouquet of flowers, Coleman asked the crowd to hug the people around them—a tradition he learned while attending a camp for children that had lost loved ones from 9/11.

Communications Studies Chair Dr. Gregory Payne organized the first event in 2001 and continues to host it every year.

“People really needed to find a place to sit and think and reflect, because people were not really sure what was happening,” Payne said in an interview with *The Beacon*. “Ever since that time we’ve always had that vigil to commemorate what happened.”

Students formed a circle around the Parkman Bandstand holding candles in paper cups, listening to the featured speakers—Payne, President M. Lee Pelton, and students.

“It was a horrendous, tragic, and senseless event, but it brought our nation together,” Pelton said to the gathered crowd. “We are here today both to remember and keep that memory alive.”

Payne also said the shootings in Ohio and Texas added a deeper meaning to the event, where people can mourn the lives lost to terror.

“It’s not just about the country, it’s about violence,” Payne said. “So, tomorrow you have some people that are going to remember but they’re also going to remember what happened in El Paso, and what happened in [Dayton,] Ohio, so it’s really victims of terrorism and violence worldwide.”

The speakers passed the microphone around to allow anyone to speak.

Sonia Tita Puopolo ’96 said her mother passed away during 9/11. She has been an organizer of the college’s event ever since she wrote a book after the event recounting her mother’s passing, called “Sonia’s Ring.”

“Tonight’s turnout was really phenomenal—the message of love and hope is key,” Puopolo said in an interview. “Even in the terrible darkness, there is light.”

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The crowd laid candles around a bouquet to commemorate the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attack. • Jakob Menendez / *Beacon Staff*



Two attendees display a poster of victims of the 9/11 terrorist attack who were relatives of members of the Emerson community. Jakob Menendez / *Beacon Staff*

## New leader rebrands college sustainability group

Brynn O’Connor, *Beacon Correspondent*

Emerson’s new sustainability manager revived and remodeled the Eco-Reps program for the fall 2019 semester, renaming it the Eco-Corps.

Eco-Corps will have the same goal as Eco-Reps—to advocate environmental friendliness at Emerson. The community-based group will promote recycling, attend environmental field trips, host info sessions, and more to ensure the future of Emerson is environmentally conscious.

The new sustainability manager, Catherine Liebowitz, released an official statement from the new student organization in an email to *The Beacon*.

“Emerson’s recognized green community, the Eco-Corps, empowers both individual and collective action through experiential learning, community engagement, and environmental stewardship,” she wrote.

Assistant Vice President of Facilities and Campus Services Duncan Pollock credits the 2018 disbandment of Eco-Reps to students leaving the organization and the former sus-

tainability manager, Amy Elvidge, leaving her position.

Liebowitz took over the position as sustainability manager this past April.

She selected three students on Sept. 10 to work as Eco-Ambassadors, which is the executive board of Eco-Corps. Approximately 13 students applied for the position of an Eco-Ambassador through Work Day—a new online hiring system. Liebowitz chose applicants to interview who are committed students with a passion for sustainability.

The students will join two previously hired Eco-Ambassadors from earlier years. Each Eco-Ambassador, Liebowitz said, is required to work five hours per week.

The student ambassadors will oversee Eco-Corps’ events and projects to make sure progress is being made. Liebowitz said that Eco-Corps have been tabling at various student employment fairs and at 172 Tremont Street to

advocate for the organization.

For students that did not get one of the three available, paid Eco-Ambassador positions, Liebowitz recommends they volunteer as an Eco-Corps member.

Liebowitz says that Eco-Corps employees may choose their level of involvement.

On Sept. 11, the Eco-Corps hosted a “Climate Commitment Overview.” In Piano Row, Eco-Corps invited any Emerson student to talk with them about climate commitment.

“It’s for students to think about how they might participate or get involved, but really it’s to bridge that gap between what is climate commitment and how the student population interacts with that,” said Liebowitz.

In an interview for the *Beacon*, Liebowitz said that, in early October, Eco-Corps will host a “Unite the Orgs” event to discuss strengths and weaknesses on campus in order to create

a more environmentally friendly environment.

On November 8, the group plans to take a trip to Deer Island to study wastewater treatments.

The former Eco-Reps left a positive impression on junior Benjamin French.

“One of them was wearing an Earth costume, and they were super nice and they had me do a pledge on how to live sustainably on campus,” French said. “After filling out the pledge, they gave me a reusable water bottle that I still use all the time!”

French, now the Co-President of the Emerson Green Collective—another sustainability group on campus—said he would be interested in working with the new Eco-Corps. The two organizations plan to come together at the Unite the Orgs event in October, along with yet another green group on campus, Earth Emerson.

“The whole goal is to get all the people in one room together and figure out our priorities,” Liebowitz said.

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*“The whole goal is to get all the people in one room together and figure out our priorities.”*

– Catherine Liebowitz



# No immediate changes to come from Title IX working group

Tomas Gonzalez, *Beacon Staff*

The working group assembled by President M. Lee Pelton to review the college’s Title IX procedures will not be making any concrete policy changes, according to a member of the committee.

Co-chair and Associate Professor of Visual and Media Arts Jan Roberts-Breslin said the group has not officially scheduled a meeting yet, but she expects that they will break down into subcommittees to examine specific issues.

Roberts-Breslin said they plan to report their findings and recommendations to Pelton but won’t create any new policies. The working group will report its findings and recommendations to him before the end of the spring term.

Pelton announced the working group comprised of students, faculty, and staff in an email to the community on Sept. 3. According to the email, the group will review the college’s procedures and policies around incidents of sexual misconduct, including the way administration

communicates with the student body. It will also examine other college’s procedures to see how Emerson compares.

“I’m hoping to see how we compare to other colleges and universities in terms of the success of our workings and our policies,” Roberts-Breslin said. “I’m hoping to be able to recommend some improvements that we can make to better serve the students and the full community.”

Pelton said in an interview the group will decide when they meet, how often, and whether the meetings are private or public.

In the email, Pelton wrote that the committee was assembled after a series of incidents that occurred during the closing weeks of the spring 2019 semester where 14 students were anonymously accused of sexual misconduct.

Pelton said the group is part of an ongoing review of the sexual harassment policy that began in 2014. He said he sees this group not as a solution, but rather as an effort for continuous improvement.

“The working group has been charged not only to review our current Title IX policies and procedures, but also to review several aspects of Title IX, such as the college support systems and programs, and the flow of information related to sexual misconduct between administrative offices,” he said in an interview.

Pelton said he consulted with senior administrative staff primarily and spoke to several students for recommendations on individuals that could participate in the group.

“Students primarily reached out to me with recommendations and, in some instances, I had conversations with students who were very interested and had been very engaged with the events that occurred in April and early May,” Pelton said.

Student Government Association President Raz Moayed was approached to work on the committee in July. She said in an interview that she is looking forward to fleshing out the issues on campus and giving students a space to talk about their experiences.

“It’s really scary because students don’t know where to go, who to go to [to talk about sexual misconduct on campus]” she said. “And now we have a student organization that’s all about this subject and we have a college committee that’s focused on our policies. I just really want to show the student body that there are different pockets of our school that [will support them].”

Moayed said she knows most of the faculty and staff on the committee and is enthusiastic about working with the people in the group.

“They’re experts in dialogue and experts in creating spaces to have these conversations, experts in policy and in higher education,” she said. “We will also have experts in this specific field that are working with us, so everyone’s strength is very calculated.”

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# ECPD introduces medication disposal box

Sydney Havens, *Beacon Correspondent*

The Emerson College Police Department installed a drop off box during the summer intended for the safe disposal of prescription and over the counter medications.

ECPD Chief Robert Smith said the drop off box was provided by Rite Aid, free of cost. The police department had to apply for a grant in June of this year, which Smith said was relatively easy since Rite Aid is trying to get the drop off boxes out in the community. The box arrived at ECPD in July, approximately two weeks after being approved for the grant.

Despite the simple application process, Emerson is one of only two Boston area colleges to install one of these boxes, the other being the Wentworth College Police Department. Deputy Chief Eric Schiazza stressed that Emerson wanted to make this box accessible for all to use without feeling uncomfortable.

“The box is in the front alcove, near the ATM machine. The box can still be seen, but it is a little more private.” Schiazza said.

Student Government Association Executive President Raz Moayed said she hopes this box has a positive impact on the student body.

“I want students to feel like there is a safe way to dispose of something they’ve overcome,” she said.

Moayed explained that there is a need for this service because it can often be unpleasant to have old prescriptions lying around.

“You don’t want it to take up space, you don’t want your friends to take it, you don’t want it to be something freaky to have, and you don’t want to throw it away,” she said.

The only fee that comes with the drop off box is the ECPD’s cost of paying the detective and the supervisor for the three to four hours it will take for them to dispose of the contents. ECPD is notified of the location in which the drugs should be dropped off roughly twice per year. Following this notification, they will seal and transport the contents of the box. The ECPD does not take inventory of what is inside the box.

“We are trying to treat this more as a health issue than a criminal issue,” Smith said.

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ECPD set up the drop box for students to dispose of prescription or over the counter medications. Jakob Menendez / *Beacon Staff*

# Journalism department advances current badge program

Elena Naze, *Beacon Correspondent*

The Journalism Department plans to hand out badges identifying each student in the program and their experience with certain journalistic equipment by the end of this week.

The department rolled out the badge system last year to keep track of which students have certain safety and equipment credentials. Each student’s name will be printed on the front, with stickers of the badges they collect on the back.

The badges allow students to easily identify themselves as part of Emerson’s Journalism Department, although they do not act as press passes. It also creates a system for the Emerson College Distribution Center to more readily know who can take out certain equipment with a quick look at the back of the badge.

There is a safety marker that goes on the badges, which students need to renew every academic year on Canvas, and software and hardware-related badges involving Final Cut Pro and DSLR cameras.

“The theory is that once you’ve passed that badge we know you’re checked in on the technology,” Administrative Associate to the Chair of Journalism Christopher Wilson said. “It makes it easier for the faculty to know who’s

been trained on what. It also makes it easier on the EDC to know who’s checked out on certain equipment and who can take it out.”

Wilson said the Journalism Department historically ran into issues with equipment policies, years before he started working at Emerson.

Journalism Department Chair Janet Kolodzy and Wilson stressed how the badge program is for the curriculum and to also keep track of who can take out certain equipment.

“Those [skills] are really something the students are going to need, not merely because they’re in a 200-level or 300-level journalism class, but pretty much to establish a technology integration habit,” Kolodzy said.

Journalism senior Raven Devaney said she thinks the badge system is a good idea.

“I’ve been taking stuff out of the EDC for a really long time and, in the past, to take out cameras since I’m not a VMA major, I’ve had to go through the online badges, but I haven’t had anything physical to show the EDC,” she said.

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Gabby Mrozowski (left) and Christopher Wilson (right) pose with the new badges. Sam Hwang/ *Beacon Correspondent*



# Editorial

## Don't forget to vote local in the upcoming city council elections

The Boston City Council election this fall is quickly ramping up to be one of the most competitive in recent years with a total of 24 candidates running for 13 seats.

Tuesday, Sept. 24 marks the Boston City Council primary, and the deadline to register to vote in the primary unfortunately has already passed. But eligible students from the Boston area can still register to vote in the general election until Oct. 16.

According to the 2018-19 Emerson College Factbook, 858 undergraduate students and 305 graduate students, over 25 percent of the student population, are residents of Massachusetts. If the portion of those students from Boston cast their vote, their voices could contribute to the shift of power in the city we all call home for a majority of the year.

While the rapidly approaching presidential primaries consume voters' time and energy, local politics continues to be often ignored and overlooked. It is less glamorous, less televised, and less dramatic, but we must remember how essential it is to the workings of our homes and our democracy.

After Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley's rise to the House of Representatives from the Council last year, a total of 15 qualified candidates are joining the race for one of Boston's four at-large seats. This count includes all of the incumbents who are opting for re-election: Michelle Wu, Anissa Essaibi George, Michael Flaherty, and Althea Garrison. Only eight of these candidates will make it past the primary.

Four of the city's nine districts are in contention with five or more candidates competing for the district's seat. One of these competitive districts is District 8, which covers Back Bay, and which our campus occupies. Two candidates are even double-dipping and running for two different open seats concurrently, as Massachusetts law allows.

Emerson puts a lot of effort into registering students to vote and encouraging an active political culture. The administration added a voter registration popup to the emConnect home page this year to remind students to complete the painfully easy process of registering. Only last week, librarians were offering to help people with the

voting process in Iwasaki. And students on campus can be found regularly encouraging their peers to vote in national elections, for both the presidency and legislature.

But even though Emerson draws a considerable number of students from the state of Massachusetts and the Greater Boston area, which makes them eligible to vote in local elections, many continue to neglect this vital, smaller part of our governmental system.

Voting locally is just as important, if not more valuable, than voting in national elections. Your vote actually has more power on the local level—not only are you voting directly for candidates instead of an electoral college, but the difference of one vote can literally make or break a local election decision, where the vote counts are in the thousands instead of in the millions.

Plus, your local representatives make decisions that frequently affect students' day-to-day lives. The Boston City Council decides issues that affect the city's standard of living—issues that impact each and every one of us. The Council holds hearings on the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, they allocate funding for Boston Public Schools, and they make decisions on citywide projects and policies like construction, noise-level regulations, and archeological excavations. Right now, for example, the Council is debating banning people from wearing masks to protests in Boston.

As a school whose students constantly stress the importance of activism and engagement in politics in the state and national level, it is vital we direct this same passion and energy to local races.

*Editorials are written solely by Editor-in-Chief Chris Van Buskirk, Managing Editor Abigail Hadfield, Opinion Editor Diti Kohli, and Deputy Opinion Editor Ziqi Wang without consultation from other staff members, and does not influence any stories. Op-Eds reflect the views of only their authors, not The Berkeley Beacon.*

### Editorial Cartoon

by the Editorial Board  
Illustration by Ally Rzes



*In memory of those  
who lost their lives on  
America's darkest day.*

### Beacon Horoscopes

Written by Dasha German

#### Which org are you based on your sign?

<b>SGA</b>	<b>News and Magazine Orgs</b>
Capricorn	Sagittarius
Gemini	Libra
<b>Film Orgs</b>	<b>Earth Emerson</b>
Cancer	Virgo
Aquarius	Taurus
<b>Athletics</b>	<b>Student Theatre</b>
Aries	Leo
Scorpio	Pisces

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*If you want to respond to, or share an opinion about, an article in the Beacon, you can write a short letter to the editor. Email it to [letters@berkeleybeacon.com](mailto:letters@berkeleybeacon.com). Please note that letters may be edited. Submissions for print must be shorter than 250 words.*

### The Berkeley Beacon

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# Opinion

## Coping with distance when disaster strikes at home



“While speaking to my family on the phone before the storm, I could hear they were becoming anxious, which then rubbed off on me.”  
*Illustration by Ally Rzesza / Beacon Staff*

**Robbie Shinder**  
*Shinder is a sophomore visual media arts major and a Beacon correspondent.*

Being born and raised in South Florida, I was always taught to prepare for the unexpected—the bad driver on the road and even the pop-up thunderstorm. But no one can prepare for a Category Five hurricane with 185 mph winds churning off the coast.

Last week, Hurricane Dorian missed the state of Florida by only a hundred miles. But at one point, the hurricane was supposed to make landfall in Palm Beach County, my family’s exact location.

I’ve been at school since the middle of August, but I closely watched the hurricane’s developments as it barrelled toward my home. While speaking to my family on the phone before the storm, I could hear they were

becoming anxious, which then rubbed off on me.

I have lived through several hurricanes before and have always been the one to outfit my home before the storm. This typically involves bringing in all the outdoor furniture, filling up our cars, and ensuring our generator is working properly. But this time, I had to walk my family through the steps to prepare for the storm on FaceTime.

On the Friday before Labor Day, there was a point where I nearly went home to help my family

secure our home and ride out the hurricane with them. I was more nervous about my family’s safety and the aftermath if the storm did hit my home, including the clean up and the difficulty I could have communicating with anyone after the storm passed.

I am sure I am not the only person who felt the desire to go home and be with their family in this catastrophic time, and the media is certainly to blame. The updates are constant, and the meteorologist’s voice is not reassuring. Just when I thought the coverage

*“I’ve been at school since the middle of August, but I closely watched the hurricane’s developments as it barrelled toward my home.”*

couldn’t get any worse, every news channel began broadcasting around the clock hurricane coverage. There were constant images of the radar and the forecast track, telling me the worst was yet to come.

This issue is not specifically about hurricanes or Florida. There are numerous emotions associated with not being with your family and friends during a time of need. I understand these feelings are part of going to college and part of growing up. It’s possible you won’t always be there for your loved ones, and it’s something that is not always easy to deal with.

When Dorian had not yet hit land, residents all across South Florida were preparing for the looming storm. This storm was different because of its massive size and power—it is the second-strongest hurricane to ever hit the Atlantic Basin. My younger sister’s school closed down, the lines for gas were miles long, and the shelves in the supermarket were empty. My entire city was gearing up for the hurricane, and I was 1,500 miles away.

In Boston, I was glued to my TV, watching the news and waiting for the latest updates on its movement, which didn’t get any more optimistic as time went on.

To my friends’ and families’ delight, the massive hurricane stayed off the coast of Florida and only brought some tropical storm-force winds to the area. However, the storm had already devastated the Bahamas—the island of Grand Bahama is completely underwater due to the storm surge.

The hurricane taught me how hard it can be to be far away from your family during a time when you know you can help them. Sometimes, the urge to drop everything to be with them is unexplainable and all-consuming. But for anyone experiencing these same feelings, you should know that those thoughts are normal, and that despite the distance, you’re never alone.

*Help the Bahamas by texting DORIAN to 9099 to donate \$10 to the American Red Cross. If you are seeking psychological support, contact ECAPS at (617) 824-8595.*

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## Walking the tightrope of college relationships

**Sabine Waldeck**  
*Waldeck is a sophomore journalism major and a Beacon correspondent.*

When I started my freshman year, not a month had gone by before I saw couples forming. Typically they did not last very long, and lingered in the honeymoon phase. This could be attributed to the fact that students are thrown into a plethora of new people they are often eager to meet, so when one piques their interest, it’s easy to dive headfirst into dating and commitment. Plus, it is enticing to start a relationship in college—who doesn’t want to live out the rom-com college romance?

To some students, the most important aspect of college is meeting new people. While many people aren’t looking for anything serious at the beginning of college, as they want to be free of any obligations, romantic relationships still form more than people would expect.

However, rushing into love is not without its consequences. When I entered a relationship the second semester of my freshman year, I found myself sailing away from what I came to college for—work.

Of course, no one has to stray entirely away from getting into a relationship early on. If I said that, I would be pretty hypocritical, as I started dating early on.

The relationship I started mid-first year was great, and it still is. But I became enthralled with having someone new to spend all my time with. I put less effort into my assignments,

paying more attention to my boyfriend than my work. A huge chunk of my time and energy was consumed by him, and even though my grades did not get harder, my grades suffered—they decreased from my first semester and my grade point average dropped. I was threatening my academic future, which is something I knew dating should never get in the way of.

As I witnessed my grades slipping, I tried to conjure up ways to balance my relationship with my schoolwork. My go-to solution was to work alongside my boyfriend, because doing work alongside a significant other sounded like the best of both worlds. We wrote papers and read in each other’s company. But I ended up not putting in enough effort into the assignments, and I couldn’t spend quality time with my boyfriend either. I eventually spent the smallest amount of time possible on work, so I could get back to cuddling and forget about the stresses of school.

As my psychology final rolled around second semester, I was having a bit of trouble in the class. But as the final approached, the need to spend all my time reviewing seemed daunting to me. So instead I spent time with my boyfriend, repeatedly putting off the time I needed to reserve for studying. When the day of my final came, I realised I had not studied nearly as much as I should have and only really crammed the night before. Unsurprisingly, I did not do well on my final.

Being at Emerson means a lot to me. I love being in the journalism program, and graduating with good grades is high on my list of priorities.



“The relationship I started mid-first year was great, and it still is. But I became enthralled with having someone new to spend all my time with.” • *Illustration by Ally Rzesza / Beacon Staff*

Having a significant other comes with so many positives, but also at times has got in the way of me being the best student I can be. I learned a lot from dating someone freshman year. But I do not want to make the same mistakes I did last year, nor do I want anyone else to—exhibit A, this article. As much as I love being in a relationship, a partner is never something I, or anyone, should jeopardize their future for.

I set new goals and boundaries for this semester by giving myself school-work days and boyfriend days. In the days when I have free time, I set a few hours aside for completing schoolwork and others for spending time with my partner. In a perfect world, my relationship would be ideally balanced, but there are constant adjustments and accommodations I make now

to maintain a healthy relationship and school life.

I hold on to my belief that relationships in freshman year are not necessarily a bad thing. Their negative impacts spur from the fact that they may distract you from your goals and responsibilities. If you do happen to fall into a relationship during your freshman year, just know that it won’t seamlessly fit into your new college lifestyle. You are going to have to put in time and effort into both your partner and your college work—it is all about balance and, in a lot of cases, putting yourself before your significant other.

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# Living Arts

## Person of Color Column: Conversations inspire cultural change

Melanie Curry, *Beacon Staff*



*Melanie Curry is a junior journalism major, Beacon staff writer, and this week's POC columnist.*

Last semester, I confronted a white friend about her unintentionally racist comments. In our conversation, I talked about one of the biggest problems with racism today—microaggressions.

“Some of the words and phrases you’ve said are racist,” I recall saying to her. “Calling my friends ‘those black girls,’ saying that your mom’s job is to help black people, and claiming that it smells like black people when the room smells like cocoa butter is racist.”

Microaggressions are a form of conscious or unconscious discrimination often derived from stereotypes, according to USA Today. Initially coined by Harvard psychiatrist Chester Pierce in 1970, microaggressions—nonverbal, verbal, or environmental—are forms of prejudice and racism used against African Americans and other minority groups.

Most of the time, individuals are unaware when they commit a microaggression. Whether the action is intended or not, everyone needs to be held accountable for their actions as it still damages the person on the receiving end.

Since coming to Emerson in fall 2018, I have experienced microaggressions in classrooms, conversations, and day-to-day interactions with students and teachers. There were only four black students in my theater class last fall—all women with naturally curly hair. My professor showed our class a movie recreation of Hamlet set in modern-day Africa, and every character in the film was black with naturally curly hair. During the post-movie discussion, a

student said Ophelia’s hair—one of the main female characters in the movie—was “nappy, unkempt, and needed to be confined in a ponytail.”

At first, I felt surprised. I expected my teacher to inform the student about her unintentionally racist comment, but my teacher agreed with her opinion instead. Their remarks about Ophelia’s natural hair—similar to mine—show how some comments and opinions are unintentionally subtle presentations of racism.

Other common examples I’ve encountered at Emerson are people who aren’t African American saying the n-word, touching my hair, or asking me why I “talk white.” While these questions, comments, or actions may seem small and unimportant, they represent a broader scope of internalized racism and bias.

Another example of a microaggression I experienced came from a confrontation with a former Beacon colleague about an insensitive comparison in a People of Color Column. The author’s comparison of their mental health struggles to the lack of mental health awareness in the black community, despite their non-black ethnicity, upset me. I didn’t like how another person of color used the struggles in my community to further their point in the column.

I proposed to talk to the author directly to explain why the comparison was insensitive and to prevent incidents like these occurring again. However, my colleague preferred to talk to the author in my place, despite my hesitance. While the comparison was removed from the article, I never received the opportunity to talk to the author. Without conversations, behaviors like this at Emerson will continue to exist.

Aside from my own experiences, other Africa-American students I’ve talked to also said they’ve experienced microaggressions in classrooms at Emerson. One of my friends recalled their professor saying, “It’s a great day for a lynching.” My friend—the only black student in the class—felt shocked that a professor would say something so culturally and racially insensitive.

Experiencing and confronting microaggressions can make students feel depressed, anx-

ious, and unwelcomed, according to Psychology Today—and African Americans reported the highest number of microaggressions experienced than any other ethnic group in the United States. At Emerson, where black students make up 4 percent of the student population, experiencing microaggressions can make them feel isolated on campus.

Often, when I hear or witness a microaggression, I ask myself, “Did this happen? Did I imagine this?” In classes with one, two, or sometimes zero black people, I feel like I have to be the spokesperson for my race when I confront a microaggression.

In my theater class, I tried to educate both the student who commented on the black actress’ hair and my professor about the different textures of hair. I explained how each hair type is beautiful in their own way. However, my teacher quickly moved on to another topic, unaware of how deeply their comments affected me.

According to the USA Today article, when confronted with making racist comments or committing microaggressions, individuals need to take a step back, listen, and educate themselves.

Often times, though, people become defensive and refuse to accept their mistake—making it harder and more difficult to recognize and address their internalized biases.

I experienced this directly when I confronted my white friend about her racist comment and my former colleague about the insensitive comparison in their column. In both instances, I felt as if my feelings were taken with a grain of salt. Instead of self-analyzing and re-evaluating their actions, both individuals immediately became

defensive and talked about their intent rather than impact. Only after an explanation did my feelings become a priority.

Similarly with the conversation with my white friend, she apologized for her actions, but I had a hard time looking past the situation.

I shouldn’t have to explain why these actions and comments are racist. It is everyone’s responsibility to educate themselves.

Confronting these two individuals made me realize that diversity programs at Emerson need to improve. Microaggressions are a common occurrence on college campuses, according to Psychology Today.

According to a New York Times article, colleges such as Clark University and Wesleyan University have created diversity programs that explain what microaggressions are, how to prevent com-

mitting them, and how to recognize and address internalized racism and biases. Conversations about microaggressions and unconscious biases are essential to making sure every student feels comfortable and welcomed on campus.

At a school that emphasizes student comfortability, how to respond to microaggressions is a necessary discussion Emerson needs to have with every student.

When the conversation changes, so does the behavior. Let’s start now.

*“In classes with one, two, or sometimes zero black people, I feel like I have to be the spokesperson for my race when I confront a microaggression.”*

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## Junior organizes inaugural orientation event for first-generation students

*Continued from page 1*

“We want to make sure you know that you have a place here,” Grant said. “We respect your experience, and we want to be able to address any issue that may come up during your time at Emerson.”

Grant said that events like the First Gen lunch are usually initiated by students who then receive support from Emerson faculty, adding that Rodriguez and Poirier approached the Office of Student Success hoping to help other first-generation students who were navigating the college experience alone.

“The idea behind it was to create a safe space for students who want to be able to talk about some of their concerns, find resources that will be able to help them, and simplify the process and recognize some of the pitfalls that can happen to students in the future,” Grant said.

The First Gen lunch was one of many events held during orientation week. Other events attracted specifically students of color, international students, and transfer students. Grant said planning orientation events for different minority groups can help students feel welcomed to the school.

“They all scaffold on each other, and there’s a lot of shared experience among all the groups,” Grant said.

During most of her career at Emerson, Poirier said she felt like she did not have a support system she could rely on. Providing first-generation, low-income students with emotional support was what drew her and Rodriguez to organize the event.

“The emotional resource of having people who have been there before and who are going through it is so important for first-generation, low-income students,” Poirier said.

Sophomore orientation leader Jade Lopez attended the event as a first-generation student. Coming from a single-income household with eight siblings, Lopez said being a low-income college student causes her to deal with struggles differently from other Emerson students.

“It’s really difficult being here as a low-income student,” Lopez said. “You’re surrounded by people who have a lot of economic privilege. It’s a really difficult journey being here and hard to accept the fact that people here have a lot which you will never experience.”

Despite recognizing the increase in the financial aid budget for 2019, Lopez said she has yet to see the college providing financial support to returning students.

“We’ve already dedicated our lives to the school,” Lopez said. “It’s unfair that we don’t have a fallback, and it’s difficult being here and not feeling like you have the support needed.”

Poirier said that the organization plans to continue to establish programs at Emerson to help first-generation, low-income students receive resources and support from the college.

“This semester, we’re working with the Office of Student Success to create something called FLI [at] Emerson where we’re going to tackle things like financial resources,” Poirier said. “We’re hoping to eventually have a physical space for first-generation, low-income students to go to receive the support they need.”

Money Matters, another financial education initiative started by the Office of Student Success, aims to help first-generation, low-income



Co-founder of First Gen E-M Anthony Rodriguez wears a pin celebrating his first-generation student identity • Lizzie Heintz / *Beacon Correspondent*

students and other Emerson students better plan their college budget.

“This is a great way for students to understand what they currently have for loans, scholarships, and what they’re paying for tuition, board, and other fees,” Grant said. “It’s about continuing to be transparent about the money that students have to spend.”

Lopez said that she hopes to see more resources go to expanding financial aid at Emerson, adding that resources like Money Matters are not as widely advertised as other clubs and organizations at Emerson.

“If you want to find organizations or resour-

ces that help low-income students, you have to search deep into the Emerson page,” Lopez said. “It’s not just something that pops up.”

Poirier said the frustration at Emerson’s limited resources for first-generation, low-income students resonated with her.

“When you can’t advocate for yourself, that’s when a program like First Gen E-M is really helpful because you have a group of people that will help do it for you,” Poirier said.

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## Starting a new chapter: Junior organizes first Fraternity and Sorority Life Fair

Jehan Ayesha, *Beacon Correspondent*

At the college’s first-ever Fraternity and Sorority Life Fair on Sept. 12, organizer Megan Ellis said she hoped to showcase an environment she believes is reflective of Greek life—one that will bust misconceptions about it being exclusive.

The FSL Fair, similar to the Student Organization Fair, spotlighted the 10 FSL chapters at Emerson. The fair allowed students who missed the chance to visit FSL booths during the Student Org Fair the opportunity to learn more about each chapter from the recruitment chairs.

“The fair has a more specific and contained environment, so there will be no pressure for students to get to every single booth,” Co-Vice President of Recruitment for Xi Gamma Nu Lizzi Upson said.

Ellis, who is the recruitment chair for social sorority Sigma Pi Theta, defines FSL as a “family of people” brought together by common interests. She said that FSL at Emerson highly values inclusivity.

“The Emerson staff is really focused on making sure that FSL here is really accepting and welcoming, and not as daunting as other schools are,” Ellis said.

Three chapters at Emerson welcome members regardless of gender identity, while the other chapters are exclusive to either male- or female-identifying students.

Rushing at Emerson is also fundamentally non-traditional and is dubbed the “recruitment process” instead. Ellis said it’s designed to get to know potential members on a more personal level, such as whether they would be a good fit for the chapter.

“It’s a lot more relaxing, a lot more calm, a lot more lowkey here than other schools,” Ellis said.

Jason Meier, director of student engagement and leadership, assisted Ellis in organizing the fair. Meier said he believes FSL improves the Emerson experience for students involved.

“[FSL] plays an important role in connecting to other people, in creating a more hospitable place for people to grow and thrive, and making Emerson a more special place,” Meier said.

Upson said she shares Meier’s beliefs.

“Joining FSL is a great way to expand your friend group,” Upson said. “It’s nice to have an organization to lean on in times of stress. In that

sense, FSL acts as a safe space.”

Ellis said another common misconception about FSL is that all members have the innate desire to join a chapter before attending college. She said that many of the students involved in FSL never pictured themselves being in FSL before they joined, yet they still found a place where they were welcomed.

Ellis said each chapter varies in form and function, offering a different experience for their members. For example, Delta Kappa Alpha is a national professional cinema fraternity, while Sigma Pi Theta focuses on providing a support system for its members.

“There is something for everyone, and even if you maybe don’t see

yourself in a fraternity or sorority here, you could go and you could just really love the people,” Ellis said. “Because at the end of the day, each fraternity and sorority is, at the core, about the people that are in the organization, because

*“Even if you don’t think you’re a sorority or fraternity type of person, the people in the fraternity or sorority might be your type of people.”*

**-Megan Ellis**

*“[FSL] plays an important role in connecting to other people, in creating a more hospitable place for people to grow and thrive, and making Emerson a more special place.”*

**-Jason Meier**



Megan Ellis, Sigma Pi Theta’s recruitment chair, organized Emerson’s first organization fair for fraternities and sororities. • Madison Murillo / *Beacon Correspondent*

each one is like a family.”

In addition to the fair, FSL had previously organized “Fries and FSL” and an FSL picnic. Both events targeted all students and served as an introduction to FSL in a more casual setting when compared to the fair.

“The more we have these events, the more likely people are to come check us out and come to our recruitment events,” Ellis said. “All the different environments with FSL mixing for potential new members offer so many different crowds, so many different types of people to come to the events, and it also helps the fraternities and sororities to bond with each other. Because the more FSL unity that we all have, the stronger we are as a whole.”

Although the separate FSL fair had been in the works for several years, this is the first time it was fully carried out. Ellis said she hopes there will be more FSL fairs in future.

Ellis recommends all students consider attending the FSL fair, even if they have never pictured themselves getting involved.

“Even if you don’t think you’re a sorority or fraternity type of person, the people in the fraternity or sorority might be your type of people,” Ellis said. “I just hope that students will look past the actual Greek life aspect and be more open to [FSL].”

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## Head Over Feels: Anthems of my recovery



*Grace Griffin is a junior interdisciplinary major, living arts editor, and the Beacon’s love & sex columnist.*

*\*Content Warning: This article discusses themes of violence, trauma, and sexual assault.*

The first time I heard a musical artist sing openly about sexual assault was in the song “Innocent Party” by Jetty Bones, the musical project of singer and songwriter Kelc Galluzzo. Galluzzo wrote, “I fell for a trick and fell into the trap of thief’s bed/ Who stole what I’ve known/ Corrupted my bones and left me there for dead.” I heard this lyric during an important time in my life—I was struggling to cope with my own sexual trauma.

I was assaulted in January of 2018, but repressed the resulting trauma until months later, when I finally felt ready to work through it. I found Galluzzo’s music in June of the same year, and my connection with her words propelled my willingness to address what happened to me instead of pushing it down.

“Some things happened that made my brain snap,” Galluzzo said in an interview with Ghetoblaster Magazine about her EP. “I wanted to help people, but I didn’t want anyone to help me, or even really see me for the trash I felt like, which made it impossible for me to let people in and let them connect to any real parts of me.”

After I first heard “Innocent Party,” I listened

to Jetty Bones’ whole 2017 EP “Old Woman,” and it topped my most-listened-to Spotify analytics by the end of the year. It became the anthem to my recovery.

I initially saw recovery as a process that once I completed, I would be rid of forever. I journaled, I talked to my therapist, I made art, and I spoke to other survivors. Yet when January arrived, my seemingly perfect healing process started to unravel as the date of my assault approached.

Psychologists call the phenomenon of being re-triggered by a traumatic event around its anniversary an “anniversary reaction.” The National Center for PTSD states that “anniversary reactions can range from feeling mildly upset for a day or two to a more extreme reaction with more severe mental health or medical symptoms.”

In my case, I felt more vulnerable and sensitive. I felt affected more often by things that didn’t usually upset me, like news of sexual assault on television. At the time, I became mad at myself for being unable to stick to my healing process—I felt weak and hated that this event held so much power over my emotions.

Realizing I was still feeling the effects of my assault over a year later angered me—I thought I had finished the healing process and come out the other side, but I hadn’t. The man who assaulted me took so much from me, and I just wanted the mental labor I had suffered through to come to an end. It wasn’t fair that his actions

hurt me so much when I wasn’t at fault for them. I mostly felt upset with myself for being too fragile to move on.

As I reconciled with this seemingly never-ending cycle of re-traumatization, recovery, and inner resentment, Galluzzo released a new EP, titled “-”. In the opening track, “better,” she sings “And all I could hear was you telling me I’m only / Good with my back in a bed / While you settle the score / With my face pushed to the floor.”

Hearing these words ignited a fire in me—I felt empowered in a completely different way. While Galluzzo’s first EP comforted me as a victim and uplifted my personal growth, these lyrics were pointed

and direct, placing total blame on her assailant. Her use of “you” directly calls out the person who hurt her, placing accountability solely on them. The lyrics told me even though I hadn’t fully healed, I was still strong and nothing was my fault.

In the second track on the EP, Galluzzo sings, “You expected / For all of this to fall under the rug / I bet you never really thought I’d tug at it.” She addresses the fact that women generally remain silent after experiencing sexual violence. The Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network published statistics stating that in every 1,000 sexual assault cases, only 230 are reported and only 4.6 perpetrators on average actually face incarceration. Statistics like these, among oth-

*“The lyrics told me even though I hadn’t fully healed, I was still strong and nothing was my fault.”*

er reasons, discouraged me from reporting my own assault.

Galluzzo exemplifies an incredible amount of strength through this song, even as she ends it by repeating the lines, “Pacing in my kitchen / Pacing in my bedroom / Pacing on my front lawn / Moving to the porch soon.” These words stayed with me, as they reflected the inner conflict I struggled with in terms of reporting or even just talking about what happened to me.

I struggle almost every day with recovering from sexual trauma even a year and a half later. Listening to songs like “Innocent Party” made me feel warm and less alone. I could acknowledge my own personal growth and feel empowered through it. However, the lyrics to “better” and Galluzzo’s entire “-” EP felt so unique they shook me to my core the first time I heard them. They weren’t speaking to me as a victim. They were speaking for me to my abuser. My anger felt acknowledged and justified, and instead of reflecting inward and feeling mad at myself for being unable to fully recover, I was able to look outward at the person who caused my pain.

I shouldn’t have to go through a grueling healing process at the fault of another person. I shouldn’t have to think about my assault almost every day and worry about triggers that pop up everywhere. No victim should because it’s not our fault. Survivors need to know it’s okay to feel angry about what happened to us. It’s okay to sustain that anger over years. It’s okay to put blame on the person responsible. We need popular media that speaks to that rhetoric, and I’m forever grateful to Jetty Bones for creating the space for it.

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# Sports

## Tepper on top of her game

Nick Rempe, *Beacon Correspondent*

Conference matches are quickly approaching, and junior outside hitter and captain Grace Tepper is sitting atop the leaderboards after capturing her third career Lion of the Week award last week.

Tepper received the honor after she led both the Lions and the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference with 62 total kills and 4.77 kills per game, leading the Lions to a 2-1 record to start the season.

"It's nice to be recognized," Tepper said in an interview. "I'm sure anybody at Emerson would feel good if they got it. The whole team is doing amazing so that's more what I'm happy about than anything else."

Tepper credits most of her early success to her teammates and coaches.

"All those numbers have passers and setters, and coach is behind all of them, so it's a group effort no matter what," Tepper said.

Head coach Ben Read said he is proud of the steps Tepper had taken since she showed up to Emerson.

"She's matured, she's grown a little bit," Read said. "She's grown tougher mentally, physically, with more knowledge of the game, and it's really showing this season. Defensively, she's been huge, serving as well, so she's been very consistent."

Read said Tepper brings leadership that helped her earn a captain position in her junior season.

"She's grown into a leadership role almost since day one just by the way she plays the court," Read said. "Last spring she was named one of our captains, along with Albany [Alexander], so she is in a leadership role and assumed by the coaches and the players as a leader."

Tepper said she wants her teammates to pick up on the way she plays and acts on the court, the same way she learned from her past captains.

"[Alexander] and I learned from the past two captains," Tepper said. "They were just so good at leading by example and always making sure everyone was where they needed to be, making sure if people were checked out they'd get back in. They just kept the team together."

Freshman setter Caroline Bond said Tepper is a leader on and off the court.

"She's one of my favorite people to play with," Bond said. "She's a crazy good player, first of all. But most importantly, she's calming."



Junior captain Grace Tepper (right, No. 8) leads the NEWMAC in kills and kills per game.  
Anissa Gardizy / *Beacon Staff*

Sometimes I'll catch myself getting a little crazy and she'll just check in and say, 'Hey, we're good! Calm down!' And that's valuable to me because the position I play—setter—requires a lot of mental focus."

Bond said that off the court, Tepper is also a mentor around campus and in the classroom.

"The other day, I was complaining about emailing my professors, and I didn't do it," Bond said. "Then she came to me said I could come over and she would help me email them if I wanted. So she goes really out of her way to make people comfortable and feel welcome."

With conference play approaching, Tepper

said the team is in a good position for another playoff run.

"I am so excited about this year," Tepper said. "I was talking to all the players—we talk about it, it's electric. Things are going so well, everyone's clicking so well, and I feel we're in a very good position going into conference and after."

*Albany Alexander is the deputy business manager.*

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### UPCOMING ACTION

**WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL:** Emerson at Eastern Conn. St., Sat.

**WOMEN'S SOCCER:** Thomas College at Emerson, 5 p.m., Tue.

**MEN'S SOCCER:** Wesleyan at Emerson, 7 p.m., Tue.

**WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL:** Wellesley at Emerson, 7 p.m., Tue.

## Miller: Freshmen could repeat success for women's soccer

Aaron J. Miller is a sophomore journalism major, sports editor, and *The Beacon's* Emerson Athletics columnist this week.



When I joined *The Beacon* as a sportswriter during my freshman year, I never could have imagined myself as the Sports Editor in my second and third semesters. I think the women's soccer team freshmen feel the exact same way with how their ambition pushed them to head one of the college's most successful athletic teams.

In the women's soccer season preview *The Beacon* published in last week's paper, the headline read "Freshmen to potentially lead women's soccer this season." It was extremely hard to include "potentially," because it's certainly not needed.

In the women's soccer opening game, the team scored two goals—both by freshmen. In the Lions' fourth game against Saint Joseph's College (Me.), a freshman scored the lone goal. And in the team's fifth game, two freshmen scored the team's three goals. After five games, freshmen lead upperclassmen 6-2 in total goals scored.

The team lost its two key attackers—Jess Frost '19 and Paige Haley '19—last season and head coach David Suvak went into the offseason knowing he had the task of replacing them.

If it wasn't for Suvak's recruiting, the Lions' record of 4-1 might have been reversed.

"We're trying to keep the same positive attitude that we had last year and a drive to be successful," Suvak said in a post-game interview with *The Beacon* on Aug. 30. "We're trying to have that carry over into this team that is a combination of returning and new players. We're just trying to keep the ball rolling."

The team must look towards its talented freshmen to keep the ball rolling this season.

Freshman Cali Bruce, who scored one of the goals in the team's win against Wentworth In-

*"If it wasn't for Suvak's recruiting, the Lions' record of 4-1 might have been reversed."*

## Cappuzzo joins women's soccer coaching staff

*Continued from Page 1*

"It is an honor to be working with Loy [Urbina], Colin [Connolly], and [David] Suvak," Cappuzzo said. "They helped me transition from being a player to a coach really easily, giving me all the tools of what it takes to be a coach."

After Cappuzzo approached head coach David Suvak during the interview process, Suvak quickly identified her as an ideal candidate.

"I think she's a very happy person," Suvak said. "You can see the joy and that she really likes being around the sport. I think she's a very competitive player as well, and as she starts transitioning into the coaching profession, I think that can help translate to a higher competitive level for our players here at Emerson."

Once she was officially hired in April 2019, Cappuzzo found her role within the four-person coaching staff. According to Suvak, Cappuzzo plays a large role in on-field evaluations in training or during a game. Suvak said he can rely on her despite her inexperience as a coach.

Cappuzzo believes that as the only female on staff, she will give the players someone to relate to.

"I can relate to the girls in a lot of ways," Cappuzzo said. "I just finished up playing college soccer not too long ago, so I know exactly what they're going through." w

Cappuzzo said she has dreams to eventually coach at the Division I level. However, she is focused on the current season and is hoping to



Assistant coach Kayla Cappuzzo (center) joined the team during the off season.  
Montse Landeros / *Beacon Correspondent*

create a culture of excellence around the program.

"Emerson has so much to offer, and I'm really grateful for the opportunity I have now to share all of the soccer knowledge and soccer

experience that I have," Cappuzzo said.

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stitute of Technology Tuesday night, has Division I talent. She controls the ball with ease and makes skill moves with grace. She's a standout player and someone to keep an eye on—at Emerson and after.

Obviously the team is incredibly talented all-around, but it would look drastically different if it didn't have such a standout recruit class. Suvak worked his magic during the offseason.

All we can do now is wait and see if this year's freshmen can lead the team to a repeat playoff run to the semi-finals and even to a New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference championship. No other team in the conference is headed by freshmen, so Emerson would definitely be the standout Cinderella story.

*2019 season goal totals*  
*Freshmen: 6*  
*Upperclassmen: 2*

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